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~~MEXICO~~GOVERNOR OF JALISCO DISCUSSES ROLE OF DEA

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[Excerpt] El Salto, Mexico, 27 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Jalisco Governor Enrique Alvarez del Castillo has said the purpose of the 10 DEA representatives accredited in Jalisco is simply to gather information on drug trafficking and their work is not police-oriented. The governor said there is an agreement between the Mexican Foreign Secretariat and the U.S. State Department establishing cooperation in sharing information but foreign agents cannot operate as police agents or carry weapons. [passage omitted]

ATTORNEY GENERAL COMMENTS ON ANTIDRUG PLAN

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[Article by Hector Adorno R.]

[Excerpts] Mexican Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez has said that drug trafficking has become a major problem for humankind with particularly severe characteristics for the American continent and, within the continent, for Mexico. "This is why we observe with interest how the U.S. authorities have begun the finest and deepest process of identifying the problems associated with the trafficking and use of drugs," the attorney general added. The attorney general also mentioned the demands for justice in the country.

These statements were made by the government official during a "closed door" meeting with Sonora Governor Rodolfo Felix Valdes. The meeting was held at the Palace of Justice in Hermosillo and was attended by judicial, federal, and state authorities. During the meeting, the implementation of the Northern Border Plan was announced. This plan is aimed at reinforcing, with human and financial resources, the national campaign against drug trafficking and addiction. [passage omitted]

During his work meeting with the governor of Sonora, Garcia Ramirez said that at times, the drug trafficking problem has threatened to turn into an issue of dissension between governments and there is no real reason for this. "It is a problem of the nations and peoples against the criminals, but never a problem of country against country. However, there are times when the criminals use the situation and provoke small or big tremors [sismos] and gaps that at a given time can break up the common front that the civilized nations and friendly governments have established against drug trafficking.

"We believe that the problem of drug trafficking, rather than creating a gap between our northern neighbors and ourselves, is becoming -- with some hard work, good faith, and good will -- an issue which we agree upon and which we are trying to stress," the attorney general said.

Garcia Ramirez also said that there is no one within the Mexican Government or its various sectors who approves of drug trafficking, "just as there is no one within the government of our northern neighbor who approves of this illegal action."

The attorney general added that the northern border plan implemented as part of the national campaign against drug trafficking and addiction is aimed at increasing actions against the use of drugs and international drug trafficking. "But nothing can be done if the bureaucratic and administrative decisions are only presented to and heard by the cabinet." [passage omitted]